United Nations A/61/195

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 August 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-first session

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Letter dated 10 August 2006 from the representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development", with subsequent consideration of the item directly at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly, under heading A, "Maintenance of international peace and security".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is herewith attached (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Permanent Representative
Republic of Azerbaijan

(*Signed*) Kaha **Chitaia**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Georgia

(*Signed*) Victor **Leu**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Republic of Moldova

(*Signed*) Victor **Kryzhanivsky**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Ukraine

06-46635 (E) 160806

Annex

Explanatory memorandum

In their Joint Declaration of 2006 on the issue of conflict settlement, the Heads of State of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM) acknowledged the necessity to intensify conflict settlement efforts and called upon States and international and regional arrangements and institutions to further facilitate, within their competence, the processes of settlement of conflicts in the GUAM area (A/60/875-S/2006/364, annex III).

The protracted conflicts in the GUAM area, namely in the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, for more than 15 years have continued to affect the lives of over 16 million people, and for more than 15 years have remained a threat to international peace and security, endangering the sovereignty and territorial integrity of three States Members of the United Nations, resulting in loss of control over considerable parts of the territory of those sovereign States and the continued occupation of a significant part of the territory of one sovereign State, causing multi-million refugee flows and internal displacement, and hampering the economic and social development of the peoples of the area.

Regretfully, international negotiations on the settlement of the conflicts have yielded no results. That has led to the prolongation of those conflicts. The protracted nature of the conflicts caused old and new security challenges to evolve, such as terrorism, aggressive separatism, organized crime, trafficking in human beings, drug-smuggling, and proliferation of small arms and light weapons on the territories that remained beyond the control of the central legitimate authorities.

In the Charter of the United Nations and in the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Member States expressed the resolve to consolidate their efforts to maintain international peace and security and to this end reaffirmed their dedication to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence, and to bring about resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with principles of international law.

Given the far-reaching implications of these protracted conflicts for the lives of over 16 million people, international peace and security, regional stability and development, the Governments of the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, the Republic of Azerbaijan and Ukraine deem it necessary for this question to be considered as a matter of priority by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session under an item entitled "Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development", with a view to taking appropriate action to deal with this acute and pressing problem in all its aspects.